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TOT: 10 NOV 84

DIRECTOR

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BRIEF 10 DIRECTOR
TO: PRIORITY LATIN AMERICA BRIEF.

LATIN AMERICA BRIEF FOR 10 NOVEMBER 1984.

FROM: DD1/O/CPAS.

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1. [REDACTED]
2. CHILE: REGIME MOVES FIRMLY
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]

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Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

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TOT: 10 NOV 84

DIRECTOR

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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2. CHILE: REGIME MOVES FIRMLY

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THE GOVERNMENT'S FORCEFUL ACTIONS UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE HAVE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY ABORTED THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRATIC RULE, AND DEMONSTRATIONS BY OPPOSITION GROUPS AND TERRORIST ACTS ARE LIKELY IN THE COMING WEEKS.

PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S DECREE RESTRICTS THE RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY, SUSPENDS THE MAIN OPPOSITION NEWS ORGANS, AND SUBJECTS ALL OTHER MEDIA TO TIGHT CENSORSHIP. SECURITY FORCES ON THURSDAY RAIDED THE SANTIAGO HEADQUARTERS OF THE LEADING

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TOT: 10 NOV 84

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LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES AND ARRESTED NUMEROUS ACTIVITISTS.
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND HUMAN RIGHTS SPOKESMEN SAY THE WHEREABOUTS OF
THOSE ARRESTED REMAIN UNKNOWN.

MEANWHILE, A MEMBER OF THE JUNTA HAS TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT THE
STATE OF SIEGE IS NECESSARY TO CURB TERRORISM BUT THAT IT DOES NOT
SIGNIFY A HARDER GOVERNMENT LINE ON THE TRANSITION. NEVERTHELESS.

PINOCHET MAY APPLY POLITICAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE HEAD
OF THE MAIN OPPOSITION GROUP--THE MODERATE DEMOCRATIC ACTION SIX-
PARTY COALITION--IN REACTION TO HIS CRITICISM OF THE SLAMPOWN AND
TO HIS CALL FOR PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS.

RELATIONS WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ARE
POOR AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW A SPANISH-BORN
PRIEST TO RETURN TO CHILE FROM A MEETING IN ROME WITH CHILEAN
EXILES. THE PRIEST, WHO HEADS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S HUMAN RIGHTS
AGENCY, HAD MADE STATEMENTS AT THE MEETING CRITICAL OF THE REGIME.

COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS EVIDENTLY SURPRISED ALL
POLITICAL SECTORS, INCLUDING THE NORMALLY PROREGIME POLITICAL RIGHT.
MODERATE OPPOSITION LEADERS ARE LIKELY TO REACT QUICKLY BY REFUSING
FURTHER DIALOGUE ON THE TRANSITION PROCESS AND BY PROMOTING FURTHER
DEMONSTRATIONS.

SPORADIC OUTBURSTS ARE LIKELY, ESPECIALLY IN THE LOW-INCOME
NEIGHBORHOODS. SECURITY FORCES HOPE TO CONTAIN ANY ACTIVITIES UNTIL
MID-DECEMBER, WHEN THE START OF CHILE'S THREE-MONTH SUMMER VACATION
PERIOD SLOWS POLITICAL ACTIVITY. TERRORIST ACTIVITY BY COMMUNIST AND
OTHER MILITANT GROUPS PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE UNABATED.

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